



NEWS RELEASE

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

Office of Public Affairs, 377th Air Base Wing, 2000 Wyoming Blvd. S.E.
Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico 87117-5606, (505) 846-5991/7019. DSN 246-5991
E-Mail address: pam@commgate.kirtland.af.mil

BASE'S VEHICLE MAINTENANCE FLIGHT EARNS COMMAND AWARD

April 25, 1997
97-64

KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE, N.M. – The 377th Transportation Squadron's Vehicle Maintenance Flight has been named best of the year in Air Force Materiel Command.

The flight contributed to the high marks earned by the 377th Air Base Wing during the surety inspection of March 1996 with no vehicle discrepancies. The flight also maintained an average of 94.7 percent vehicle-in-commission rate, well above the Air Force and major command goal of 90 percent.

The Champion Wheels Program allowed the painting and enhancement of 117 vehicles and equipment by improving the aging fleet and increasing using organizations interest in keeping the fleet looking good. By obtaining environmental management funds, the flight was able to purchase emissions equipment which prevented costly fines from local, state and federal offices. During the Environmental Compliance Assessment Management Program Inspection the flight had zero write-ups with inspectors giving high marks on the hazardous waste programs and procedures. Vehicle Maintenance's General Purpose shop stepped forward to install light bars, strobe lights, radar units, eyewitness VCRs, prisoner cages, and Motorola radios in the nine new law enforcement vehicles here on base.

This equipment valued at over \$100,000, was installed saving over \$2,500 per unit installation costs and helped increase Law Enforcement's visibility and reliability. The Allied Trades shop repaired a water tank on

-MORE-

2-2-2/AWARD

a P-19 fire truck saving over \$11,000 in replacement costs. The flight hosted a mobile maintenance training team for P-23 fire trucks, which aided in quick diagnoses of problem areas and repairs, improving reliability and in-commission rates for the P-23 fire trucks.

New customer service centers were setup and new surveys written with most customers providing insight as to how Vehicle Maintenance could better serve them. Increased comments and phone calls and one on one service has improved 100 percent.

Working as a team, Vehicle Maintenance assisted the Security Police during Peacekeeper Challenge 1996, enabling the security police and other competitors maximum participation. The flight mobile maintenance teams were at each venue enabling 99 percent on site repairs to be accomplished. Being on the scene ensured the best vehicle maintenance support ever in the event and the lowest cost in two years.

During the 150th Fighter Wing's deployments for two exercises (Australia and Red Flag 1996) the mobile maintenance team ensured complete success with all repairs completed on-site without delay. The shops also refurbished a 1984 surrey bus into a VIP bus.

The Allied Trades Shop developed a repair for the flight's metro vans that have plywood siding, which developed cracks and faded. During different base celebrations (Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day and Open house events) vehicle maintenance augmented the security police in directing traffic and answering questions from the general public.

Vehicle Maintenance also augmented the Services and Civil Engineer Squadrons during the same events by setting up events, trash and cleanup details and the base in general with a mobile maintenance team ready to assist those who used Air Force vehicles and equipment in their demonstrations.

The flight has seven Automotive Service Excellence-certified mechanics, which has lead to the high sustained in-commission rate and turn-around rates.

The flight remodeled the tire shop, the oldest building, by renovating the office and replacing wall paneling with a more durable material.

-30-

STORY BY: Master Sgt. Joel Neddo of the 377th Transportation Squadron

NOTE TO EDITORS: For more information, contact Senior Airman Paul Gritton, (505) 846-7019/5991.